

Message Text

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TAGS: EIND, SWEL, TBIO, XX
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL FOOD LABELING SURVEY - SWITZERLAND

REF: STATE 178135

1. ALTHOUGH STILL VOLUNTARY -- EXCEPT FOR DIETETIC AND DIABETIC FOODS -- INGREDIENT LABELING IS EXPECTED TO BE MANDATORY NEXT YEAR FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL LATER THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT. THE, AS YET, INCOMPLETE REGULATIONS WOULD REQUIRE STATEMENTS OF INGREDIENTS AS A PERCENTAGE BY WEIGHT IN DESCENDING ORDER OF PROPORTION. SEVERAL MAJOR RETAILERS HAVE ENCOURAGED INGREDIENT LABELING OF PACKAGED FOODS IN DEFERENCE TO NATURAL-FOOD CONSCIOUS CONSUMERS.

2. ALL FOODS WITH A SPECIFIC HEALTH CLAIM, SUCH AS DIETETIC, DIABETIC, PROTECTION AGAINST DENTAL CAVIES, MUST BE APPROVED BY THE SWISS DEPT. OF HEALTH TO ASSURE CONTENTS SUPPORT THE CLAIM. APPROVAL MUST ALSO BE OBTAIND FOR PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL. IN CERTAIN INSTANCES PRODUCTS ARE CLASSIFIED AS MEDICATIONS WHICH REQUIRE APPROVAL BY, AND A SALES LICENSE FROM THE INTERCANTONAL UNION FOR THE CONTROL OF MEDICATIONS.

3. FOR DIETETIC FOODS, LABELS MUST INCLUDE THE PERCENTAGE BY WEIGHT OF CARBOHYDRATES, FAT, PROTEIN AND WATER. IN ADDITION, DIETETIC FOODS

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FOR DIABETICS MUST NOT CONTAIN SUGARS AND STATE THIS FACT ON THE LABEL. DIABETIC FOODS MUST BE AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT LOWER IN CARBOHYDRATES THAN THE EQUIVALENT NON DIABETIC FOOD, WITHOUT SUCROSE, GLUCOSE, ETC. AND STATE THESE FACTS ALONG WITH THE PROPORTION OF FAT AND PROTEIN. CROWLEY

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